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# Resources Evaluation Newsletter

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## POINT-SAMPLING FACTORS FOR APPALACHIAN HARDWOODS

by  
Harry V. Wiant, Jr.<sup>1/</sup>

### ABSTRACT

At a given point sample using a BAF=10, the sum of total heights of in-trees in feet times 4.2 provides an estimate of per-acre cubic-foot volume.

A point-sampling board-foot factor (International 1/4-inch Rule) for Appalachian hardwoods has been provided in a previous publication (Wiant and Maxey 1979). Per-acre volume ( $V_{bf/a}$ ) is estimated at a point using an instrument of a given basal area factor (BAF) with the total number of 16-foot logs on "in-trees" ( $\Sigma L$ ) by the relation:

$$V_{bf/a} = (\Sigma L) (BAF) (67)$$

A similar factor is needed for cubic-foot volume.

### Procedure and Results

Schnur (1937) provides cubic-foot volume tables, including bark, to 4-inch diameters-outside-bark (dob) for various upland species. Those for white oak (*Quercus alba*), black oak (*Q. velutina*), scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea*), chestnut oak (*Q. prinus*), northern red oak (*Q. rubra*), hickories (*Carya* spp.), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), yellow-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and black

cherry (*Prunus serotina*) were averaged to produce Table 1. As can be seen in Table 2, cubic-foot volumes varied little between the nine species, as measured by the coefficient of variation (CV, the ratio of the standard deviation to the mean, expressed as a percent), for diameters at 4.5 feet (dbh or D) between 6 and 14 inches and total heights (H) of 40 to 90 feet.

Where data were available for all nine species, ratios of cubic-foot volumes to  $D^2H$  were calculated (Table 3). Those ratios did not vary widely in Table 3 (CV = 4.3%). An estimate of cubic-foot volume ( $V_{cf}$ ), then, is provided by the average of the ratios in Table 3 (.00230), where:

$$V_{cf} = (.00230) (D^2H)$$

Cubic-foot volume for each "in-tree" on a per-acre basis ( $V_{cf/a}$ ), using the approach described by Beers (1978), is:

$$\begin{aligned} V_{cf/a} &= (.00230) (D^2H) (BAF/.005454D^2) \\ &= (.42) (BAF) (H) \end{aligned}$$

At a given point using a BAF = 10, for example, the sum of total heights of "in-trees" in feet times 4.2 provides an estimate of per-acre cubic-foot volume. If we assume a cord of wood has 90 cubic feet of wood and bark (Avery 1967), the volume in cords per acre ( $V_{c/a}$ ) at a given point is estimated as:

$$\begin{aligned} V_{c/a} &= (.42) (BAF) (\Sigma H)/90 \\ &= (.0047) (BAF) (\Sigma H) \end{aligned}$$

for BAF = 10,

$$V_{c/a} = (.047) (\Sigma H)$$

This relation is surprisingly similar to the one developed by Grosenbaugh (1955) for loblolly pine (.047 versus .05).

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Table 1. Average cubic-foot volume, including bark, to a 4-inch dob for some Appalachian hardwoods.

Dbh (in.)	Total height (ft.)									
	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110
4		0.18	0.54	0.89	1.14					
6	1.50	2.14	2.95	3.71	4.50	5.31	5.74			
8	3.10	4.33	5.87	7.37	8.90	10.47	11.98	12.85		
10		7.2	9.4	11.7	14.1	16.3	18.8	21.2	23.4	
12		11.0	13.5	16.8	20.2	23.5	26.9	30.3	33.9	34.8
14		13.4	18.4	22.9	27.4	32.0	36.7	41.6	46.7	50.3
16			23.0	30.1	35.9	42.3	49.0	56.3	65.0	64.7
18				37.5	45.2	52.7	60.5	67.9	76.5	82.8
20				48.5	57	66	75	84	94	106
22					69	79	90	102	114	128
24						84	101	115	129	160
26								145	168	188
28								168	195	232

Heavy lines indicate limits of Schnur's volume table values for all nine species

Table 2. Coefficient of variation (%) for average cubic-foot volumes for portion of Table 1 with data for all nine species.

Dbh (in.)	Total height (ft.)						
	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
6	10	6	7	8			
8	13	6	6	6	5	5	
10		6	5	5	4	5	5
12		6	5	5	4	5	5
14			5	5	5	4	4
16			13	13	13	15	18



Table 3. Ratios of volume/D<sup>2</sup>H for portion of Table 1 with data for all nine species.

Dbh(in.)	Total height (ft.)						
	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
6	.00198	.00205	.00206	.00208			
8	.00226	.00229	.00230	.00232	.00234	.00234	
10		.00234	.00234	.00235	.00233	.00235	.00236
12		.00234	.00233	.00234	.00233	.00234	.00234
14			.00234	.00233	.00233	.00234	.00236
16			.00235	.00234	.00236	.00239	.00244

Average ratio = 0.00230

CV = 4.3%

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#### DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERAGENCY NATIONAL SITE (LAND) CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR RENEWABLE RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS

An "Interagency Agreement Related to Classifications and Inventories of Natural Resources" was signed June 6, 1978 by the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and the Soil Conservation Service. Since that time, the Geological Survey has become a party to the Interagency Agreement, and four state organizations are cooperating in the Agreement objectives. The first part of the Agreement provides for coordination of a land classification system. The objectives of the coordinated class-

ification system are to: (1) minimize resource inventory duplication, (2) enhance and encourage data collection and sharing, (3) increase resource assessment/appraisal efficiency and program compatibility, and (4) expedite technology transfer.

A national ecological land classification system has been developed for uniform application for renewable resource inventory, assessment/appraisal, and program planning. This system was proposed by Richard S. Driscoll (Resource Evaluation Techniques Program Manager, Rocky Mountain Station), John W. Russell (Land Management Planning, WO), Marvin C. Meier (Area Planning and Development, WO; current Director, State and Private Forestry, R-10) of the Forest Service at the request of Chief McGuire. This committee received continuing input and review from the cooperating agencies during the development of the system.

The system has four components: vegetation, soil, landform, and water (aquatic). Climate is included as a criteria in the vegetation and soil components. The system provides a class level within each component to satisfy the requirements of different intensities of inventory and planning.

The component classification allows us to deal with each component as an entity. The characteristics of each class are based on primary properties of the components, much like plants and animals are classified taxonomically. The classification system allows data to be cross-referenced among components, or aggregated vertically. This provides flexibility for national, regional, state, or local resources assessments and appraisals for program or project planning and management decisions.

The vegetation component is adapted from the UNESCO System, which is recognized worldwide. It



is based primarily on foliar cover and height of vegetation, and is related to altitudinal, latitudinal, and climatic constraints. The lowest levels of the classification (subformation, series, and association) are comparable to the vegetation classification system used by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and several other agencies.

The soil component is the Soil Taxonomy identified with the National Cooperative Soil Survey in the United States. This system is used by the Departments of Agriculture and Interior and many state and local cooperating agencies. The Soil Taxonomy is designed to classify soils, of the world and is accepted in many countries. Essentially all the soils of the United States have been classified at most levels of the system. Provision has been made to modify definitions or establish new series when necessary.

A new landform component is being developed by a strategy group composed of representatives from each of the five agencies who are cooperating on the Interagency Agreement. The Landform Strategy Group is to consider the morpho metric and genetic approaches to landform classification. The classification of this component should be a taxonomic rather than geographic system. Alternative systems should be ready for testing by fall 1980.

A new water (aquatic) component is nearing completion by an Aquatic Strategy Group represented by each of the five cooperating agencies. The component system is a hierarchical classification of fresh and salt waters as a habitat for life. It is ready for review by the five cooperating agencies.

The classification system is compatible with or based on those used by various agencies, organizations, and individuals. The system can be coordinated with: (1) the classification system used for the 1980 RPA Assessment and RCA Appraisal, (2) Wetland and Aquatic Habitat Classification, (3) regionalizations in Canada and the United States, (4) Utah State University ECOSYM, (5) ECOCLASS-Modified ECOCLASS, and (6) soils and vegetation classification procedures of the Bureau of Land Management and Soil Conservation Service.

During the past three years, the National Site (Land) Classification has been further developed and refined by the Resource Evaluation Techniques Program of the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, USDA Forest Service, in Fort Collins, Colorado. In January 1979, a technical work group on classification consisting of three members from each of the five cooperating agencies evaluated the system in terms of its usefulness in making site specific resource inventories and national and regional resource assessments. A 1978 field test of the classification was also considered in the review. Based on this technical evaluation, the following are some items endorsed by the cooperating agencies:

1. The concept embodied in the four component system was accepted as a natural land classification system. It is understood that this system does not address all aspects of resource inventory and assessment.

2. The soils component was accepted as presented within the scope of Soil Taxonomy and the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

3. The vegetation component was accepted as presented except:

a. The UNESCO terminology is to be simplified and the lower two elements are to be further developed taxonomically.

b. The means for relating current vegetation to the system, either as a separate component or as a part of some other system, must be clearly identified.

c. National correlation procedures should be developed.

4. Further evaluation of how the classification system relates to mapping procedures, sampling techniques, and component integration was requested to help coordinate it with ongoing inventory and assessment activities.

5. Inventory data collected and analysis processes used by the five agencies shall be translatable into the agreed-upon segments of the classification system in order to maximize technology transfer and data exchange.

6. The Resource Evaluation Techniques Program was instructed to prepare a research publication which describes the classification concept of the system, explains segments of the system that have been accepted, and outlines future research plans. (This publication should be available in the fall of 1980.)

The soil and vegetation components of the classification system can be implemented immediately with little disruption of currently used systems. The landform and aquatic components are being developed. Interagency acceptance and use of the system will establish compatibility among agencies and organizations responsible for resource inventory, evaluation, and assessment/appraisal.

For further information on the National Site (Land) Classification System, contact Daniel L. Merkel, Project Leader, National Site (Land) Classification Project, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, 240 West Prospect Street, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526.

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## ISTF REACTIVATED

The International Society of Tropical Foresters has been reactivated after a 7 year lapse. Membership is open to professionals having an interest in tropical forestry. Dues are \$5 per year and include the ISTF newsletter subscription. For further information contact ISTF, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Washington D.C. 20014.

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## FROM DOWN SOUTH

The Southern Station RRE (Forest Survey) unit is about to complete field work on the first comprehensive forest survey of Puerto Rico. Detailed reports on species diversity and timber volume will follow.

Survey units in Southern and Southeastern Experiment Stations are coordinating plans for resource studies in Alabama and Georgia beginning this summer. At the outset, a core set of resource tables will be available and common to both states.

A mid-cycle study of Louisiana Forest resources is planned for Summer 1980. This study will use list sampling, optical bar photography, and ground observations to evaluate timber resource trends and pine regeneration success. For further information contact: Roy C. Beltz, Project Leader, Renewable Resources Evaluation, USDA - Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station, T-10210, U. S. Postal Service Bldg., 701 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA 70113.

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## SITE INDEX CURVES FOR PINUS OCCARPA

The Corporacion Hondurena de Desarrollo Forestal (COHDEFOR) has recently developed site index curves for Pinus Oocarpa for use in Honduras. Two procedures for developing the curves - one from Spain and the other from Chile - were evaluated. For a copy of the procedures and results Spanish, contact: Mr. Cornelio Groothousen, COHDEFOR, Apartado Postal 1378, Tegucigalpa, D.C., Honduras.

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#### MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND SYMPOSIA

- July 21-23, 1980. Watershed Management Symposium. (Red Lion Motel, Boise, Idaho.) Contact: ASCE, 345 East 47th St., New York, NY 10017. Phone (212) 644-7496.
- July 21-25, 1980. Multilevel Sampling Designs for Resource Inventories. \$400. Contact: Offices of Conferences and Institutes, W1 Rockwell Hall, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO 80523. Phone (303) 491-6222.
- July 21-25, 1980. International Conference on Soil Conservation. Contact: Mrs. P. M. King, National College of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe, Bedford, England MK45 4DT.
- July 31-August 2, 1980. Symposium on Hazard Rating Systems in Forest Insect Pest Management. (Athens, Georgia). Contact: Dr. Roy L. Hedden, Program Chairman, Dept. of Forestry, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29631.
- August 2-22, 1980. Remote Sensing of Natural Resources. Summer intensive Course 5150. Contact Dr. Roy A. Mead, Dept. of Forestry, School of Forestry and Wildlife Resources, Cheatham Hall, Virginia Tech., Blacksburg, VA 24061. Phone (703) 961-5482.
- August 18-20, 1980. Forest Management Planning: Present Practice and Future Direction. \$30. Sponsored by IUFRO. Contact: William A. Leuschner, School of Forestry and Wildlife Resources, VPI and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Phone (703) 961-5484.



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